

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides for a method and apparatus for shared protection in an Optical Transport Network ring based on the ODU management, based on the access of the APS/PCC bytes of the ODU Overhead at nodes, preferably by a dedicated sub-layer (like the Tandem Connection Monitoring TCM), and on the use of an end-to-end signaling APS protocol in an ODU-Shared Protection Ring topology.